

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:

entering a first set of numeric values in a first plurality of number fields, wherein the first plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen in a first column;

entering a first set of one or more mathematical operators in a first set of one or more operation fields, wherein the first set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen alongside the first plurality of number fields in the first column;

automatically calculating a first result by applying the first set of mathematical operators to the first set of numeric values;

displaying the first result on the display screen;

entering a second set of numeric values in a second plurality of number fields, wherein the second plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen in a different column than the first set of numeric values second column;

entering a second set of one or more mathematical operators in a second set of one or more operation fields, wherein the second set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen in a different column than the first set of mathematical operators alongside the second plurality of number fields in the second column;

automatically calculating a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of numeric values; and

displaying the second result on the display screen.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1,

wherein the displaying the first result on the display screen comprises displaying the first result in a same column as the first set of numeric values the first column; and

wherein the displaying the second result on the display screen comprises displaying the second result in ~~a same column as the second set of numeric values~~ the second column.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

entering a first character string which is associated with one of the first set of numeric values; and

displaying the first character string in a comment field adjacent to the one of the first set of numeric values.

4. (original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the entering the first set of numeric values comprises:

entering a first numeric value in a number field in an upper line;

automatically shifting an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and

entering a next numeric value in the number field in the lower line.

5. (original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one formula.

6. (original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one reference to another numeric value in a field.

7. (original) The method of claim 1,

wherein the entering the first set of numeric values in the first plurality of number fields comprises entering character strings in the first plurality of number fields.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a first set of output character strings based on the first set of numeric values; and

displaying the first set of output character strings in the first [[set]] plurality of number fields.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1,
~~wherein the first set of number fields and the first set of operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns having a first single column label; and~~
~~wherein the second set of number fields and the second set of operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns having a second single column label.~~
wherein the first column comprises a first column label displayed atop the first column, wherein the first column label substantially spans at least a combined width of the first plurality of number fields and the first set of one or more operation fields;
wherein the second column comprises a second column label displayed atop the second column, and wherein the second column label substantially spans at least a combined width of the second plurality of number fields and the second set of one or more operation fields.
10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9,
~~wherein a first field label is displayed for the first set of operation fields;~~
~~wherein a second field label is displayed for the first set of number fields;~~
~~wherein a third field label is displayed for the second set of operation fields; and~~
~~wherein a fourth field label is displayed for the second set of number fields.~~
wherein a first field label is displayed atop the first plurality of number fields and below the first column label;
wherein a second field label is displayed atop the first set of one or more operation fields, alongside the first field label, and below the first column label;
wherein a third field label is displayed atop the second plurality of number fields and below the second column label; and
wherein a fourth field label is displayed atop the second set of one or more operation fields, alongside the third field label, and below the second column label.
11. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a CPU;
a display screen coupled to the CPU;
a memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the memory stores program instructions which are executable by the CPU to:

display a window on the display screen, wherein the window comprises a plurality of fields arranged in a matrix having a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns;

receive user input into the memory, wherein the user input comprises a first and second set of input numeric values and a first and second set of mathematical operators;

determine a first and second set of output numeric values based respectively on the first and second set of input numeric values;

display the first set of mathematical operators vertically in a first set of one or more operation fields in a first column;

display the first set of output numeric values vertically in a first plurality of number fields in the first column, wherein the first plurality of number fields are displayed alongside the first set of one or more operation fields in the first column;

display the second set of mathematical operators vertically in a second set of one or more operation fields in a second column;

display the second set of output numeric values vertically in a second plurality of number fields in the second column, wherein the second plurality of number fields are displayed alongside the second set of one or more operation fields in the second column;

automatically calculate a first result by applying the first set of mathematical operators to the first set of input numeric values;

automatically calculate a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of input numeric values; and

display the first result and the second result on the display screen.

12. (original) The system of claim 11,
wherein the first result is displayed in the first column; and

wherein the second result is displayed in the second column.

13. (original) The system of claim 11,

wherein the user input further comprises a first character string which is associated with one of the first set of input numeric values; and

wherein the program instructions are executable by the CPU to display the first character string in a comment field in the first column.

14. (original) The system of claim 11,

wherein the user input further comprises a second character string which is associated with one of the second set of input numeric values; and

wherein the program instructions are executable by the CPU to display the second character string in a comment field in the second column.

15. (original) The system of claim 11,

wherein in receiving user input into the memory, the program instructions are further executable to:

receive a first input numeric value in a number field in an upper line;

automatically shift an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and

receive a next input numeric value in the number field in the lower line.

16. (original) The system of claim 11,

wherein the first set of input numeric values comprises at least one formula.

17. (original) The system of claim 11,

wherein the first set of input numeric values comprises at least one reference to another numeric value in a field.

18. (currently amended) A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a computer to implement:

receiving into a memory a first set of numeric values in a first plurality of number fields, wherein the first plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on a display screen in a first column;

receiving into the memory a first set of one or more mathematical operators in a first set of one or more operation fields, wherein the first set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen alongside the first plurality of number fields in the first column;

automatically calculating a first result by applying the first set of mathematical operators to the first set of numeric values;

displaying the first result on the display screen;

receiving into the memory a second set of numeric values in a second plurality of number fields, wherein the second plurality of number fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen in a ~~different column than the first set of numeric values~~ second column;

receiving into the memory a second set of one or more mathematical operators in a second set of one or more operation fields, wherein the second set of operation fields are displayed in columnar format on the display screen ~~in a different column than the first set of mathematical operators~~ alongside the second plurality of number fields in the second column;

automatically calculating a second result by applying the second set of mathematical operators to the second set of numeric values; and

displaying the second result on the display screen.

19. (currently amended) The carrier medium of claim 18,

wherein the displaying the first result on the display screen comprises displaying the first result in ~~a same column as the first set of numeric values~~ the first column; and

wherein the displaying the second result on the display screen comprises displaying the second result in ~~a same column as the second set of numeric values~~ the second column.

20. (original) The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

receiving into the memory a first character string which is associated with one of the first set of numeric values; and

displaying the first character string in a comment field adjacent to the one of the first set of numeric values.

21. (original) The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

receiving into the memory a second character string which is associated with one of the second set of numeric values; and

displaying the second character string in a comment field adjacent to the number field associated with the one of the second set of numeric values.

22. (original) The carrier medium of claim 18,

wherein the receiving into the memory the first set of numeric values comprises:

receiving into the memory a first numeric value in a number field in an upper line;

automatically shifting an entry point to a number field in a lower line; and

receiving into the memory a next numeric value in the number field in the lower line.

23. (original) The carrier medium of claim 18,

wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one formula.

24. (original) The carrier medium of claim 18,

wherein the first set of numeric values comprises at least one reference to another numeric value in a field.

25. (original) The carrier medium of claim 18,

wherein the receiving into the memory the first set of numeric values in the first plurality of number fields comprises receiving into the memory character strings in the first plurality of number fields; and

wherein the receiving into the memory the second set of numeric values in the second plurality of number fields comprises receiving into the memory character strings in the second plurality of number fields.

26. (currently amended) The carrier medium of claim 18, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the computer to implement:

determining a first set of output character strings based on the first set of numeric values;

displaying the first set of output character strings in the first [[set]] plurality of number fields;

determining a second set of output character strings based on the second set of numeric values; and

displaying the second set of output character strings in the second [[set]] plurality of number fields.

27. (currently amended) The carrier medium of claim 18,

~~wherein the first set of number fields and the first set of operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns having a first single column label; and~~

~~wherein the second set of number fields and the second set of operation fields are displayed in adjacent columns having a second single column label.~~

wherein the first column label substantially spans at least a combined width of the first plurality of number fields and the first set of one or more operation fields; and

wherein the second column label substantially spans at least a combined width of the second plurality of number fields and the second set of one or more operation fields.

28. (currently amended) The carrier medium of claim 27,

~~wherein a first field label is displayed for the first set of operation fields;~~

~~wherein a second field label is displayed for the first set of number fields;~~

~~wherein a third field label is displayed for the second set of operation fields; and
wherein a fourth field label is displayed for the second set of number fields.
wherein a first field label is displayed atop the first plurality of number fields and
below the first column label;~~

~~wherein a second field label is displayed atop the first set of one or more
operation fields, alongside the first field label, and below the first column label;~~

~~wherein a third field label is displayed atop the second plurality of number fields
and below the second column label; and~~

~~wherein a fourth field label is displayed atop the second set of one or more
operation fields, alongside the third field label, and below the second column label.~~